

REMARKS

This amendment is responsive to the Office Action mailed January 31, 2008. Reconsideration and allowance of the claims 2-12, 14-23, and 25-27 are requested.

The Status of the Claims

The January 31st Office Action reports examination of claims 1-27.

Claims 1, 3, 4, 9, 11, 22, and 23 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as allegedly anticipated by Norton, U.S. Pat. No. 3,255,054 (hereinafter "Norton").

Claims 2 and 21 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly unpatentable over Norton in view of El-Hanany et al., U.S. Publ. Appl. No. 2003/0085358 A1 (hereinafter "El-Hanany").

Claims 10 and 13 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly unpatentable over Norton.

Claims 24 and 25 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly unpatentable over Ikeda et al., U.S. Pat. No. 6,323,490 (hereinafter "Ikeda") in view of Norton.

Claims 5-8, 12, 14-20, 26, and 27 are indicated as containing allowable subject matter.

**The claims present patentable subject matter
and should be allowed**

Claim 8 which was indicated as containing allowable subject matter has been placed into independent form including all limitations of **canceled base claim 1**. Dependent **claims 2, 3, and 5** are placed off of claim 8. It is respectfully submitted that claims 2-8 are in condition for allowance, and Applicants earnestly request allowance of claims 2-8.

Claim 9 has been amended to incorporate subject matter of claim 5 that was indicated as allowable. It is respectfully submitted that claims 9-12 as are in condition for allowance, and Applicants earnestly request allowance of claims 9-12.

Claim 14 which was indicated as containing allowable subject matter has been placed into independent form including all limitations of **canceled base claim 13**. Dependent **claims 20 and 21** are placed off of claim 14. It is respectfully

submitted that claims 14-21 are in condition for allowance, and Applicants earnestly request allowance of claims 14-21

Claim 22 has been amended to recite a heater and a bias means, the heater and bias means configured for use in identifying semiconductor elements which exhibit degraded gamma radiation energy resolution as compared to a selectable threshold level of gamma radiation energy resolution responsive to heating and bias applied by the heater and biasing combination.

Claim 23 depends from claim 22 and further calls for restoring means including a reverse bias means which applies a reverse bias to the identified degraded elements for a preselected time.

It is respectfully submitted that claims 22 and 23 as amended herein incorporate subject matter indicated as allowable at Office Action page 8. It is respectfully submitted that claims 22 and 23 are in condition for allowance, and Applicants earnestly request allowance of claims 22 and 23.

Claim 26 has been placed into independent form including all limitations of **canceled base claim 24**. Dependent **claim 25** is placed off of claim 26. It is respectfully submitted that claims 25-27 are in condition for allowance, and Applicants earnestly request allowance of claims 25-27.

In view of the foregoing, allowance of all pending claims 2-12, 14-23, and 25-27 is earnestly requested.

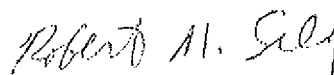
CONCLUSION

For the reasons set forth above, it is submitted that all claims distinguish patentably over the references of record and meet all statutory requirements. An early allowance of claims 2-12, 14-23, and 25-27 is requested.

In the event the Examiner considers personal contact advantageous to the disposition of this case, he is requested to telephone Thomas Kocovsky at (216) 861-5582.

Respectfully submitted,

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